

THE

GATEWAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1913

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photo by Michelle Bishop

Amato's Café and Catering sits on some of the land that UNO is trying to acquire, as discussed at the Board of Regents meeting Friday.

UNO set to purchase property without using eminent domain

Board of Regents

CRYSTAL REID
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Area businesses spoke against the university administration using eminent domain to acquire 17 acres of land around 64th and Center Streets, at the open session of the Board of Regents meeting on Friday.

After closing the meeting for debate, the regents decided that UNO could not pursue eminent domain until all other options were exhausted, said President/Regent Elizabeth Kraemer. Even then, eminent domain must be presented to and passed by the regents.

The regents unanimously voted 8-0 for UNO to proceed with acquiring the land, which would be used for what Kraemer

described as "Aksarben Village," a UNO community residential, shopping and entertainment area. Other acquired land could be used for expanding south campus and athletic fields.

The area businesses that addressed the board were concerned about what eminent domain would mean for their future.

Ann Amato, co-owner of Amato's Café & Catering, said that their business was

See EMINENT DOMAIN: Page 2

Student Senate chooses not to act on regent

ANGI SADA
NEWS EDITOR

UNO Student Senate decided not to pass a resolution regarding Regent C. David Hergert's campaign finance violations.

In a meeting on Thursday, senators agreed that such a resolution would be useless and would have no binding authority.

In a previous session of SGUNO the senate was instructed to investigate the issues surrounding Hergert by President/Student Regent Elizabeth Kraemer. In his report in this most recent session Speaker Steve Massara announced that they would not be following UNL's student government in passing a resolution regarding Hergert.

"It is not appropriate for student government [to pass the resolution on Hergert] since we have no binding power. The vote was not appropriate," Massara said.

Massara went on to say that the student body should take advantage of other options to speak regarding Hergert.

"There are other means available, like writing state senators," Massara said.

UNL's student government passed a resolution last week asking for Hergert's resignation, saying that he is a disgrace to the university and sets a bad example for students.

Hergert represents the far western district that comprises over 30 counties. He has been fined \$33,000 for violating campaign finance laws and has been called upon by the Unicameral to resign. Attorney General Jon Bruning is currently running a criminal investigation of the violations.

The senate also discussed plans for the SGUNO banquet and then went on to approve nearly \$550 in spending for Student

See STUDENT SENATE: Page 2

UNO celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

SCOTT STEWART
SENIOR STAFF WRITERS

One in every four Americans will be of Hispanic descent by 2050, according to the U.S. Census Bureau Web site.

Yet many people do not know much about the history or identity of this culturally diverse group that is increasingly becoming more prominent and influential in American life.

Sept. 15 marked the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month nationally, and the UNO Office of Latino/Latin American Studies along with several other campus and community organizations is doing its part to increase awareness, understanding,

and tolerance among the university's faculty, staff, and students.

"We try to involve as many different spheres as possible," said OLLAS Project Coordinator Lucy Garza, "Because no matter what field you want to participate in ... Latinos will touch your life."

According to Garza, the state of Nebraska had the highest percentile increase in Hispanic population between 1990 and 2000 in the Midwest, and the city of Omaha has the highest population of Latinos in Nebraska.

Hispanic Heritage Month began with México Sinfónico last Wednesday, where the Heartland Philharmonic Orchestra performed selections to celebrate Mexico's

Independence Day.

"They did a wonderful job," Garza said. "It was very well attended—we had so many people coming from the community with their children. Some people were even getting teary-eyed."

The Student Organizations and Leadership Programs office's Cultural Awareness Program sponsored an event Friday, which featured Reggaeton and Latin hip-hop music.

"That will be the primary event that [SOLP] will be financing," said Cultural Awareness Program and Organizations Adviser Sharif

See HISPANIC HERITAGE: Page 2



photo by Michelle Bishop

Dancers performed during last year's Hispanic Heritage Month celebration.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Omaha Weather



NEWS

News you can use

page 2



FEATURES

20 Questions

page 4

ENTERTAINMENT

Pick of the Week

page 7

Index

News	2	Sports	9
Features	4	Classifieds	11
Entertainment	7		

12 Pages

News you can use

COMPILED BY KIMBERLY BRYANT
STAFF WRITER

UNO Writing Center to host opening reception Sept. 21

The UNO Writing Center will host a reception to mark its official opening on Wednesday, Sept. 21, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. UNO Chancellor Nancy Belck will give brief remarks at 1:15 p.m.

The Writing Center is a campus-wide resource for students, faculty and staff. Students can get feedback on any stage of the writing process, from brainstorming to final editing.

Students from any subject are welcome to drop in or make an appointment at the center, located in Arts and Sciences Hall, room 150. Faculty and staff can also use the center for help with writing. Office hours are from

9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday. Nine English graduate teaching assistants and an English department faculty member are on staff.

For more information or to make an appointment with a consultant at the Writing Center, call 554-2946 or go to www.unomaha.edu/writingcenter.

Season tickets available to 2005-06 UNO Department of Theatre productions

Season tickets to the UNO Department of Theatre's 2005-06 production schedule are now available for sale. The cost is \$40 for the general public, and \$30 for UNO faculty, staff, students and senior citizens.

The 2005-06 season is as follows:

"Homebody/Kabul" by Tony Kushner
Sept. 22-25

"SMASH" by Jeffrey Hatcher
Adapted from "An Unsocial Socialist" by G.B. Shaw
Oct. 6-8, 12-15

"Mother Courage and Her Children" by Bertolt Brecht
Adapted by David Hare
Nov. 17-19 and 30, Dec. 1-3

"Tartuffe" by Moliere
Feb. 23-25, March 1-4

"Arabian Nights" by Mary Zimmerman
April 13-15, 19-22

To purchase tickets or for more information, call 554-2406, or stop by the Weber Fine Arts Building, room 315A.

Register for UNO Job Fair by Friday

Career Exploration and Outreach will host a job fair Wednesday, Sept. 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Milo Bail Student Center Ballroom. The event will feature employers who are actively seeking candidates for open positions and internships. Professional interview attire is expected.

Students should pre-register to attend the fair by Friday, Sept. 23. To register, students must have a profile on the CareerConnect system. Visit unoceo.unomaha.edu and click on the CareerConnect link to create a profile and register for the fair.

For more information about the job fair, CareerConnect and other services offered by Career Exploration and Outreach, call 554-3672, or stop by the Eppley Administration Building, room 211.

"O!" campaign stretches to north and south campus

ANGI SADA
NEWS EDITOR

A simple glance skyward will have many members of the UNO community saying "O!"

Flags boasting "O! What a university!" were hung on the lampposts on both the north and south campuses on Saturday, Sept. 10, as part of an agreement with the Omaha Chamber of Commerce's "O! What a City" campaign.

The project, which cost the university \$3000 for the 75 flags, began as a brochure for an Academic Quality Improvement Program Strategy Forum held May in Chicago, said Teresa Gleason, director of communications.

Gleason said that her office was looking for an angle to showcase UNO's status as a metropolitan campus.

"I asked the folks at the Chamber of Commerce if we could use [the O! logo] for the brochure," said Gleason.

"The whole idea behind the campaign is to involve the community."

Gleason said that there are plans to expand the campaign saying that it might crop on the sides of local roads.

"We might even see billboards soon."

Gleason believes that Omaha is an inherent part of UNO's existence and evolution.

"This is a little way of getting people to look at UNO in a different way," she said. "Not just at our physical growth but our intellectual growth as well."

Gleason pointed out that, in addition to physical developments, the average UNO ACT composite score has risen to 23.4 points. According to act.org the national average composite score is 20.9 points.



photo by Angi Sada

There are 75 "O!" flags on poles around campus.

"The UNO of today is going places. We want to point out that UNO is a university of distinction."

From EMINENT DOMAIN: Page 1

their life insurance policy.

"This is the future for our children," Amato said.

Sam Amato, a liver-transplant patient, said that taking away his business would give him nothing to do.

The owners of the three businesses implied that the offers made to them for their businesses were well below what they were worth.

Nils Anders Erickson, owner of Rainbow Recording Studios, said that he felt threatened by two real estate agents who said that he had 30 days to take their "low-ball" offer. The Amatos

said that they would not be able to pay off their business and live comfortably off of the rest of the money for the next 15 years as they had planned.

Students from UNL also spoke out against Regent C. David Hergert during the open session.

Matt Schaefer, who drafted UNL's student government resolution calling for Hergert's resignation, read the resolution for the Board of Regents. The resolution had unanimously passed at the ASUN meeting last week.

"We don't understand how you can cheat time after time and still sit

in that seat," Schaefer said. "Why is it okay for you to cheat, and not for us?"

Mary Beck from the UNL Faculty Senate also expressed concerns about Hergert's seat on the board, and said that because the issue has received national and local press, the UNL Faculty Senate will also be researching his campaign-finance violations.

In other business, the regents approved a new UNO Masters of Language Teaching degree, and also approved \$5 million for the installation of new monitors at the UNL stadium for the athletics department.

From HISPANIC HERITAGE: Page 1

Liwaru.

"The Latino Heritage month is one of the examples of different organizations having different events."

Several of this year's Hispanic Heritage Month events are supported by coalitions of campus organizations and community support.

"We also have the Pathways to Harmony that we're promoting," Liwaru said.

The Pathways to Harmony forum

will be on Wednesday, Sept. 21, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Milo Bail Student Center Ballroom. According to Garza, Pathways to Harmony is a regular UNO program that supports the University's mission of promoting diversity.

A week later on Sept. 28, OLLAS will be sponsoring the Charla Series, which will feature a movie screening. SOLP is also helping to promote that event.

"We will engage community

members along with students in a forum, this time showing a film and discussing it afterwards," Garza said. "The Office of Latino/Latin American Studies is delighted to sponsor these activities during the month, but it's really something we do all year long."

For instance, on Nov. 2, OLLAS plans to conduct its annual celebrate the Day of the Dead in collaboration with the Weber Fine Arts Gallery.

From STUDENT SENATE: Page 1

Government display items in order to "increase professionalism." They also approved \$400 in spending for the purchase of 500 writing pens.

The senate also renewed constitutions for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Maverick Dance Team. The UNO Chess club had their constitution sent back for revisions.

The senate then went into executive session, closing the meeting to disappointed observers.

Election Commission member Josh Wiechman expressed his discontent.

"We don't have the right to speak, but we do have the right to observe," he said.



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THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1913

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UNO enrollment on the up and up Students celebrate U.S. Constitution

CHRIS LARSON
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Enrollment at UNO is up to 14,093, a two percent increase from last year, according to a press release sent out by Tim Kaldahl with University Affairs.

There was also an increase of 116 freshmen, which meant having to accommodate that many more into New Student Orientation, classes and facilities.

Wade Robinson, assistant vice chancellor for Enrollment Services, attributed these growing numbers to many things: high quality faculty, quality academic programs, quality facilities and the metropolitan advantage. Omaha and its surrounding areas also have many Fortune 500 companies, businesses and internship opportunities that could turn into full time jobs.

Robinson said that the rise in enrollment came with challenges, like classes filling up more quickly. Overall, he wasn't concerned.

"I am excited for next year," Robinson said.

New student enrollment director, David Cicotello, said that almost 2,800 new students went through orientation this year and they did orientation with the same number of staff members.

Orientation was from April 16 through Aug. 12 and nearly every session was full, Cicotello said. They increased their programming capacity by 25 percent in preparation for summer orientation.

Cicotello also said that they had a 5 percent increase in student campus visits during the 2004/2005 school year. More students are visiting UNO and becoming interested in the facilities.

"I'd like to see a modest increase in student visits this year also," Cicotello said.

Students didn't seem too concerned about full classes or full orientation sessions.

Freshman Molly Carroll went through orientation this summer and said she had trouble getting into a couple of science courses. "They were helpful in helping me find other classes though."

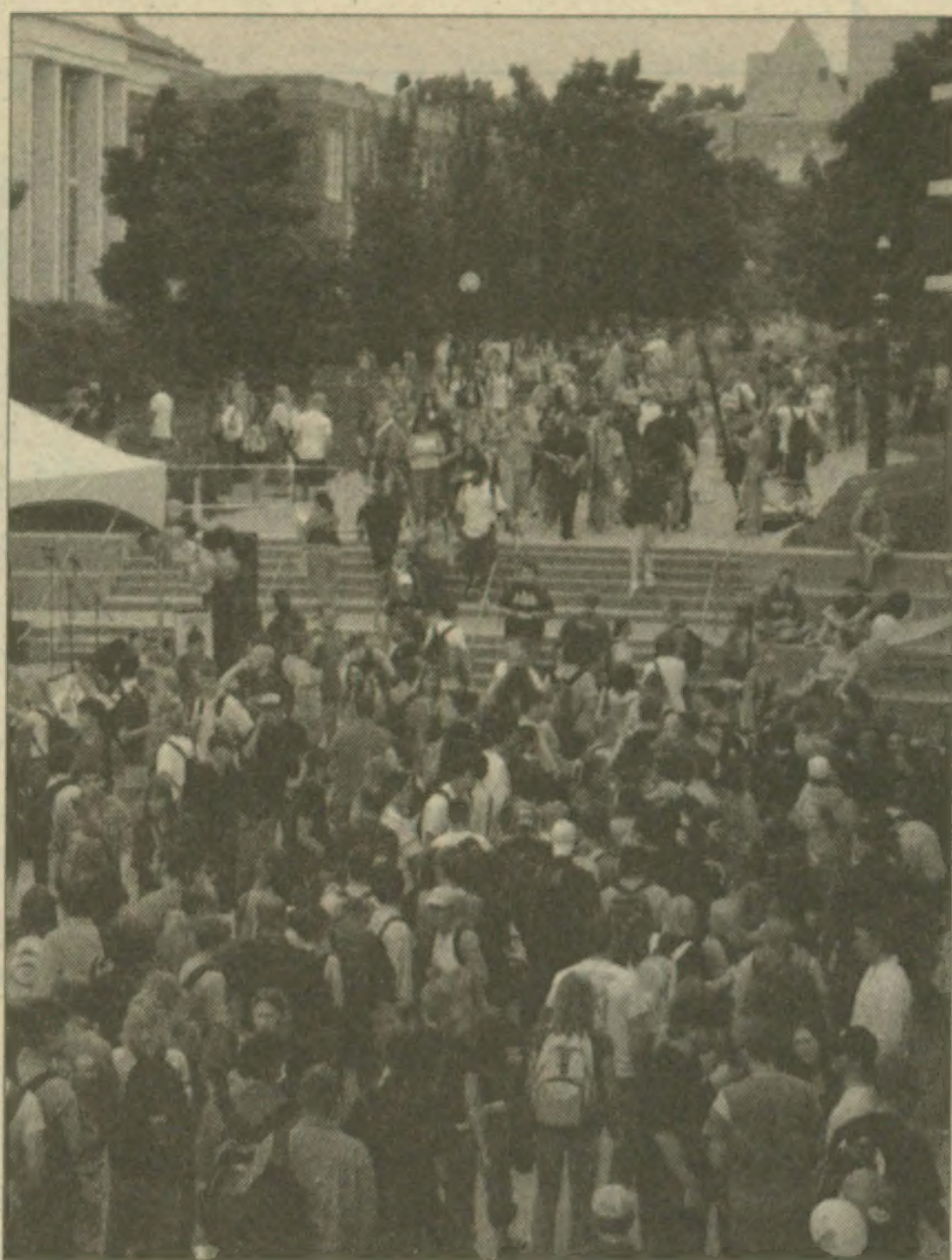


photo illustration by Michelle Bishop and Caelan Miller

"I went to orientation early, so I didn't have any trouble getting into classes," said freshman Chelsey Stehlik.

"Orientation was exciting, I won a free shirt," said freshman Katie Flair.

Because of the increase, freshman classes filled up more quickly during registration and alternatives had to be found.

Science courses, psychology courses and world civilization courses filled up especially quickly, said BJ Hawkins, counselor in Arts and Sciences.

With most of the classes the professors merely added a few more seats to accommodate new students, Hawkins said. Math 1310 filled up so quickly, though, that the school had to add three more sections.

And when it came to providing for the hurricane victims, professors were very good about letting in as many students as their classes could hold.

"I want to give kudos to the faculty," Hawkins said.

Even after seats were added some students still could not register for some classes they wanted so they went to the professor individually to ask for special permission to be allowed into the class, Hawkins said.

SCOTT STEWART
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Saturday marked the 218th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution.

To commemorate this great document and meet the requirements of new federal legislation, UNO joined public institutions nationwide in a variety of activities.

Many students had discussions in communication, political science, criminal justice, and other classes last week to increase student awareness of the provisions of the Constitution.

According to Assistant Professor of Political Science Jody Neathery-Castro, one example of classroom activities included students dividing into groups and proposing a new amendment to the constitution.

"There was a range of proposals. One group wanted to remove the Electoral College. Another group wanted an equality of marriage amendment," Neathery-Castro said.

"I just think there is a lot of interest in the Constitution. People are kind of focused on Constitutional law," Neathery-Castro said.

Neathery-Castro was the coordinator of many of the campus Constitution Day activities, due to her involvement with the American Democracy Project.

Last Thursday, the political science and history departments sponsored a panel discussion titled "The Framers of the Constitution and the Art of Compromise," which featured UNO professors Kent Kirwan (political science) and Jerry Simmons (history).

"The panel was fantastic. Probably between 40 and 50 students showed up for it," Neathery-Castro said.

On Friday, the university sponsored

telecasts titled "Conversations with Supreme Court Justices," which featured video recordings of Justice Stephen Breyer and Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

O'Connor was the first woman to serve as an associate justice of the Supreme Court. She has been in the news recently since her announcement of her retirement and the complication created by the passing of former Chief Justice William Rehnquist.

Between the two telecasts, the university also sponsored a debate obtained by the National Archives titled "Justice Talking."

"[Justice Talking] is kind of looking more at the applied aspects of the constitution," Neathery-Castro said.

The University Library also had a display on the history and purpose of Constitution Day, as well as free copies of the document and related materials for checkout available to students.

These events were conducted to meet a requirement of legislation passed last year, partially because of the efforts of West Virginia senator Robert Byrd.

"Each education institution that receives Federal funds for a fiscal year shall hold an education program on the United States Constitution on Sept. 17 of such year for the students served by the educational institution," according to the Congress' Web site, thomas.loc.gov.

This is the first year that the legislation has been in effect.

When asked about the possible ramifications of not complying with the law, Neathery-Castro said, "I think they specifically made [the law] vague."

She also said that while discussing possible ideas with colleagues from other universities, one of the suggestions made was debating the constitutionality of the Constitution Day legislation.

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FEATURES

September 20, 2005 | features@gateway.unomaha.edu

Page 4

Josh Bashara | Features Editor

20 Questions *A little insight into a random UNO student*



Becky Boyer
Staff writer

Name: Timothy
Alexander
Major:

Construction Engineering Technology

Year: Freshman

Hometown: Omaha

1. How would you describe yourself in one brief sentence?

I'm everybody's friend.

2. If you could be a superhero, what power would you want the most?

I think it's nice to fit in with people. I want to help people on a social level not on a super power level.

3. What person would you like to meet the most, dead or alive, and what would you ask him/her?

Jesus, and 'How did he keep up with all that he was doing?'

4. Who's the best professor at UNO you've ever had?

Probably Ms. Fountain so far because she's helped me out so much.

5. Who's the worst?

I don't know if I really have one, I don't think I've gotten on anyone's nerves yet.

6. How do you feel about the parking at UNO?

Terrible, my goodness even though I get

a ride up here it's still bad. But yeah, we found a spot today but I had to stand in the spot.

7. Why did you choose UNO?

It was a nice close school and at first I didn't know it was kind of just a laid-back school, now I see some of the programs they got that interest me.

8. What do you think your favorite thing about going to school at UNO will be?

I like the culture or diversity here.

9. What do you think about the new lactation station?

No comment.

10. If you knew you were going to die tomorrow, what would you do today?

I'd be doing a lot of praying and thinking.

11. What's your favorite movie, and why?

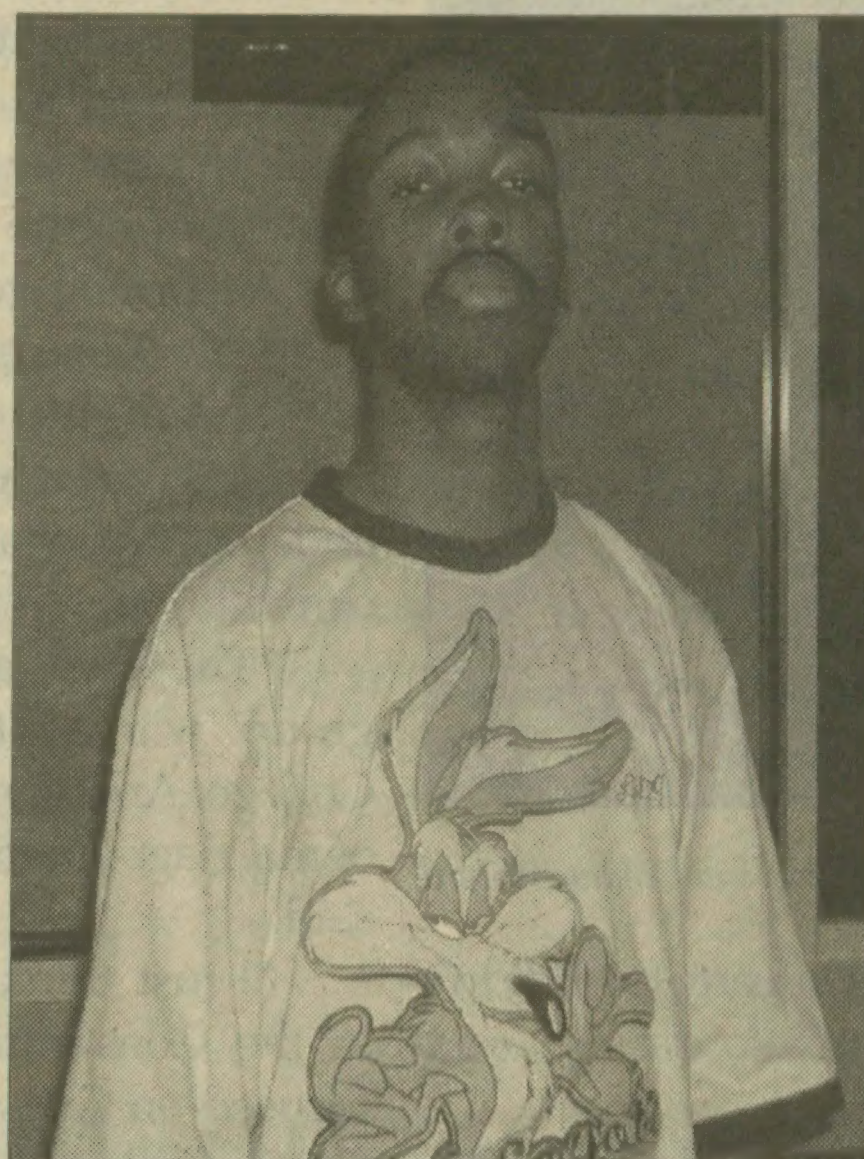
Crash Dummies, it's an old movie.

12. What's the most messed-up thing about the world today?

The love that people have toward each other— sometimes you can see it, but a lot

of times it's just not there.

13. What would you do to change that? I don't know if I could really do anything to change that because you can't really change people's attitudes, you just set your own example and hope that people will follow.



14. Have you ever taken drugs?
No but I got my tonsils out the other day, I was tore up, my goodness but that's as close as I ever came to taking drugs.

15. What's the most horrible thing that's

ever happened to you?

I got shot at by a BB gun and chased by a dog that was two times my size. I also fell in some poison oak and didn't get to take a shower and even after I took a shower I was still itching.

16. What's the difference between lust and love, to you?

I'm trying to stay away from lust right now 'cause I don't want no kids, but love goes

beyond just the crush, it lasts.

17. Have you ever really, truly been in love?

I'm going to say no right now, I'll say I'm young for that right now.

18. What's the meaning of life?

It depends on the person. If you read the Bible you can identify it from there other than that it's up to the person to define what they want out of their life.

19. What is the most difficult thing you've ever done in your life?

Trying to improve myself because it's so hard to see what I did wrong.

20. What is one question you've never been asked, but always wish someone would have?

How did you grow up to be the person that you are today? The answer is take advantage of older people. It may seem funny listening to older people, but it has helped me so much.

Comments?
Concerns?
Complaints?

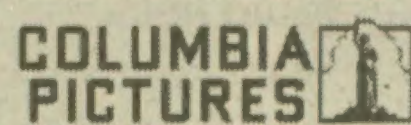
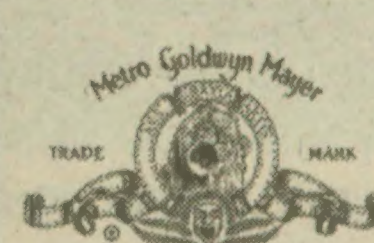
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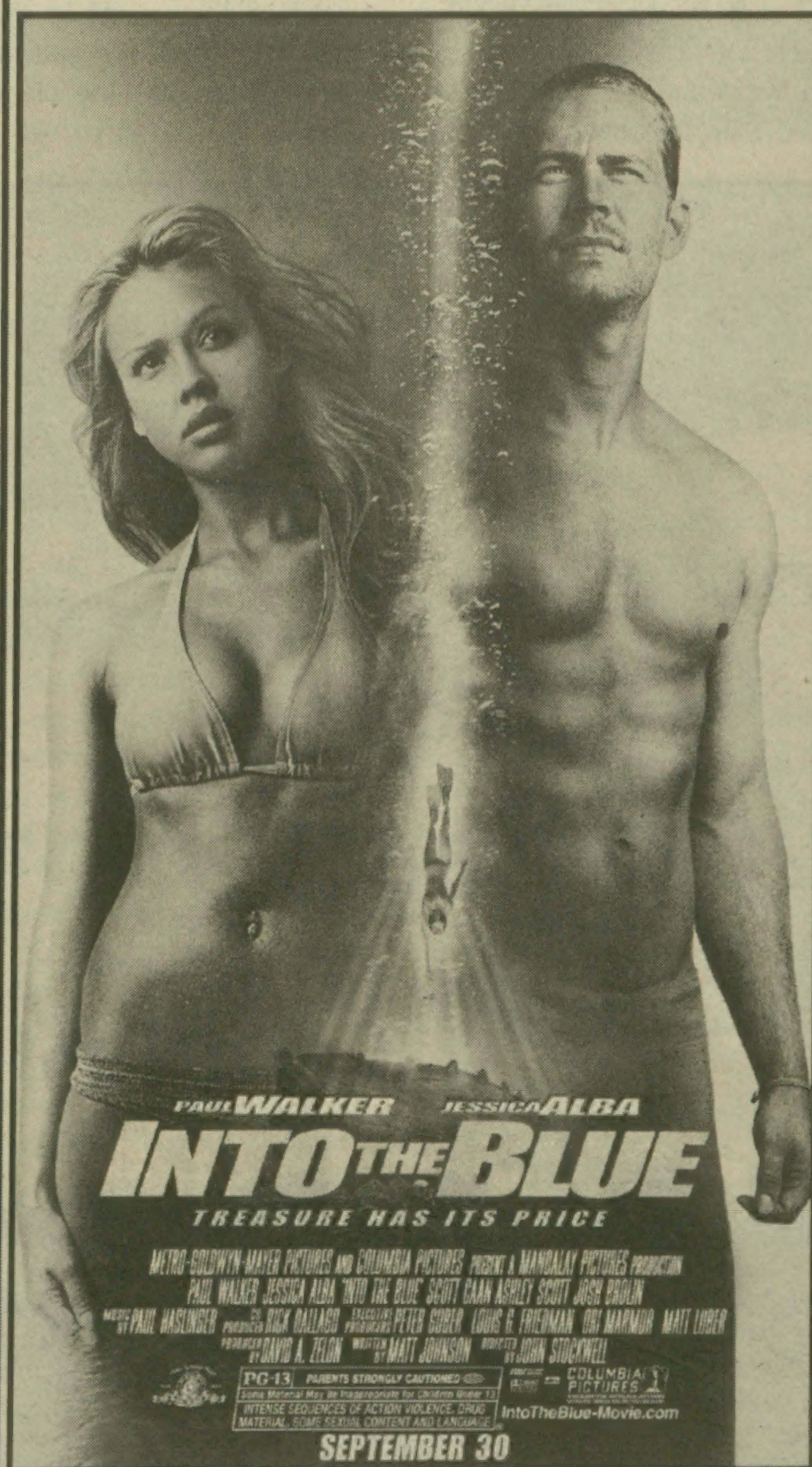
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IN THEATRES SEPTEMBER 30TH!

My attitude could be the problem

I've recently become aware of yet another problem I have. Among my addictions (Taco Bell, Tivo and the Internet,) bad habits (picking my split ends, throwing my clothes on the floor and cracking my knuckles) and health problems (aversion to exercising, not flossing and indoor tanning), I have another zipper to add to the list.

This one falls under the category of social problems, which is dangerous indeed. As you are well aware, social problems can be, and are, definitely noticed by the outside world. I can crack my knuckles and gorge on chalupas in my own filthy home and no one has to know about it. But social problems—well, they follow you wherever you go (then again, so does my large "I don't work out" rear end).

You know when you have toilet paper stuck to your shoe and you see people staring at you strangely, maybe even snickering? And then when you figure out what the big deal is you are surprised because a) no one even cared to tell you and b) you swore you checked your shoe on your way out of the ladies room?

That is about how I feel right now. Times one hundred.

I always thought I was a nice person. I enter the room smiling (barring funerals) and the like, and carry on conversation in a pleasant tone. I say "nice to meet you" to new people, and even shake their hands, despite the fact that I don't like to...you never know where those hands have been, do you? I say my pleases, thank-yous and excuse-mes. And I always, always hold the door for the next person.

So what exactly is my problem? It's not in my manners. Supposedly I give off a bad vibe.

My friend divulged this to me a few nights ago after we had gone out for a drink. Okay, a few drinks. I know you never meet any good men in a bar, but that doesn't mean you can't meet a few bad ones, right? I was complaining about the lack of male attention I had received that night, and for quite a few nights, to be perfectly honest. I consider myself to

Beyond the Blonde



Alex May

be a decently attractive person. Definitely above average. Yet few men approached me. The ones that did were very complimentary, but they were few and far between.

"You are unapproachable," my friend said matter-of-factly. Come on now, I'm not that beautiful.

"I mean you give off a bitchy signal," she

continued, seeing that I was interpreting this all wrong and squashing the growing pride and vanity in my eyes. She explained that my attitude was intimidating, and that when I was out I was "on" and not myself at all.

"Just be yourself," she offered.

But myself is not glamorous at all. It is dorky, clumsy and, for lack of a better adjective, *me*.

I know I'm not the only person guilty of putting on an act in public. I hear fake laughs and see fake smiles all the time. And there is a time and a place for that. But some people take it too far. I think they are afraid that if they show the true them, they won't be well-received.

For example, my bitchy act had me saying "I know, right?" or "duh!" when receiving a compliment when a simple, humble "thank you" would suffice. My nose would scrunch up at anything that displeased me, followed by an "ew" (okay, I'm still guilty there). If someone approached who I deemed to be below me, my face said it all. I would return his genuine greeting with a clipped, attitudinal "hi."

I've met girls like me. I hated them. So you can imagine my horror at discovering I had become one. I was feeling like a leper because I felt I wasn't getting the attention I deserved. Because guys didn't come up to me one after the other and offer to buy me drinks or take me out. Because the girls in the bar weren't friendly enough.

Who would want to consort with me? You can smell an ugly attitude like that from the door, and the stench wafts behind you all night. My negative internal feelings were being broadcasted outward. Because I felt self-conscious I

was on the defense, pushing people away before they could see my flaws, and overcompensating with what I viewed as funny, spunky lines.

So I've pinpointed from where the problem stems, but have I eliminated it? I guess we'll see the next time I go out. But I will make a conscious effort to just be myself. Sounds easy enough, right? Hah.

Turning gay people straight?

"Proclaiming to, educating and impacting the world with the Biblical truth that freedom from homosexuality is possible when Jesus is Lord of one's life." - Exodus International's mission statement. I was on my way to work this week and noticed a letter sitting on my passenger seat. I quickly picked it up to see who it was from, and immediately became enraged. I went to Christian counseling for five months, and often heard of this

organization called Exodus International. Exodus was created to show the world that homosexuality is wrong, and that you can find "Freedom from homosexuality through the power of Jesus Christ." My parents and counselor often tried to sign me up for rallies and seminars, but I refused by simply saying "If God wants to change me, he should have did it when I asked him years ago."

Obviously my dad hasn't stopped trying. Exodus is having an upcoming rally in October called "When Homosexuality Hits Home," and he is planning on attending, hopefully with me. I admit a part of me wants to go, not to be changed, but because it's hard for me to believe that groups of people would actually gather for such a ridiculous event—and I want to witness it. I went on the Exodus Web site shortly after I found the letter, and was

absolutely appalled. There is a section of testimonials, of individuals who turned straight with the help of Jesus Christ. Their stories seem so similar to mine, and at times my body was filled with chills. The sad thing is that they fell into the pressures and persuasion of this group that simply believes "If you're gay, you won't go to heaven." That's a tough phrase to deal with, and I admit, it took me years and years to finally understand that it wasn't true. One of the most shocking stories on the site was about another group called Groundswell. This group holds conferences for teachers, youth pastors and parents, giving them the tools to deal with students and children dealing with homosexuality. According to Groundswell, "Children are at risk, it's time for our communities to respond." How are they going to respond? The main focus of the conference will be the importance of public schools not promoting homosexuality. The following paragraph is found on the Groundswell website:

"In many communities, faculty members have assisted high-school and middle-school students in forming 'Gay-Straight Alliances,' where gay-identified or questioning youth discuss their sexuality. Some school guidance counselors, acting on misinformation, tell questioning youth that they must be gay, if they have a same-sex attraction, and encourage them to accept their

homosexuality rather than seeking change."

After reading that paragraph it's obvious that these teachers are wrong... right? I mean, if a child is struggling with his identity, you should tell him that there is only one way to live, whether you like it or not. Groundswell seems to know exactly what it's talking about. They want to teach children to be true to their teachings, but to deny

who they really are. I guess all of this information just baffles me. I do believe that God can and has done miracles, but why is changing one's sexuality thought to be one of importance?

I don't see how pretending to be something I'm not would be considered miraculous in any way.

Exodus constantly talks about how children struggling with homosexuality are bullied, tortured and laughed at constantly. I don't understand why they don't realize that

their organization is the reason why these children are being ridiculed. Teaching individuals that a lifestyle other than their own is wrong. It's something that we should all be concerned about.

Everyone is obviously different. We have a world filled with Muslims, Christians, transsexuals, homosexuals, heterosexuals, Jews, African Americans—the list goes on and on. I may not personally understand each individual group, but should I go around telling people that they are wrong? Absolutely not.

Why is diversity thought of as such a bad thing? If Exodus had its way, the world would be filled with Christian, heterosexual couples. Could you imagine a world without gay people? Or for that matter, heaven without gay people? Doesn't make either sound very desirable, huh? Exodus doesn't seem to be slowing down at all. In fact, it's recently become a global organization, having outreaches in Brazil, Africa, Europe and South America. With my dad and thousands of others constantly sending them money to accomplish its goal, I don't see an end in sight. Am I going to let it bother me? Not really. I have learned to understand that you can't ask the ones who want you to change to change themselves. If someone tells me homosexuality is wrong, I will tell them my opinions and move on. After all, it's not the Exodus organization that we need to worry about, it's the individuals who turn to it that we need to reach out to. Send any questions and comments to mmcmanus@mail.unomaha.edu.

How Typical



Michael McManus

Why is diversity thought of as such a bad thing? If Exodus had its way, the world would be filled with Christian, heterosexual couples.

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READ THE GATEWAY

Omaha's first "Lit Fest" provides insight into literary world

REVIEW BY SALLY BROWN
STAFF WRITER

The weekend of Sept. 16 and 17 provided Omaha with its first ever "Lit Fest," bringing together novelists, poets, screenwriters, songwriters, playwrights and visual artists to advocate the art of writing, and raise money for the Omaha Public Library.

Festivities included an art exhibit at the Darkroom gallery, examining the relationship

between word and image; a patron pre-party at the W. Dale Clark Library, featuring readings by noted local and international authors; marathons of fiction and poetry readings; various panels of discussions on the art of writing; performance art; and the closing party at the Omaha Healing Arts Center, with a silent auction featuring art, signed books, and featuring a screening of a short film by musician/filmmaker Shane Aspegren and edited by media artist Joseph Krings, both

originally from Nebraska.

I caught the ever-engaging panel discussion at Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts on Saturday, on memoir and fiction writing. The panel, entitled "Telling Secrets: Revealing the Details of Your Life," encompassed more philosophical debate than giving insight into the world of fiction writing of incorporating personal and family experiences.

The panel included successful individuals in the fiction-writing industry including University of Nebraska Press's memoir *American Lives* editor Ladette Randolph, *The Face of a Naked Lady* author Michael Rips, *My Misspent Youth* author and essayist Meghan Daum, *Not Just My Land: A Personal Literary Journal into the American Grasslands* author and UNO faculty John Price, and *The Turn and My Mother* author Mary Helen. Kurt Anderson, author of best-selling novel, *Turn of the Century*, also joined the bunch at audience request.

The panelists each vaguely spoke about the amount their personal lives and those of family members played a role in their writing. Discussion quickly turned into an issue of fiction versus nonfiction and novel versus memoir: how much is truly true?

A panelist revealed her separate personas in her life; she is a different person to her

parents, to her close friends, to her students. Another panelist spoke candidly about some writer's tendency to live a more fictional life, getting into the shenanigans of implausible, serendipitous situations in a nonfiction world.

Yet another said plainly "who cares if it's true or not," explaining what matters is whether the stories fit into the philosophy that the author is attempting to illustrate in the work.

A notable writer in the audience challenged the panel with frustrations towards writers who blatantly make-up stories, and sometimes ignore horrible realities that could have been prevented, but instead made a smash hit on the front page of the paper.

A panelist replied with understanding, and the explanation that it is impossible to get something completely true, all of the time, "like rolling dough - some of it falls on the floor, on your clothes, you can't keep track of it all."

Another panelist responded with the truth of the romanticism that can be placed by readers on the writer, resulting in a great disappointment when they learn of the humanness of the writer.

So, is it okay to change facts to make a point in a memoir? One panelist said, "If something will serve the writing and the reader, do it."

See LIT FEST: Page 11



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EOE

Photo of the Week: Mavstock!



photo by Caelan Miller

Emphatic sings to the crowd on Saturday, Sept. 17, in the Grand Ballroom of the Milo Bail Student Center.

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The MavRadio Pick of the Week

CHARLEY REED
MAVRADIO STAFF

"Call me Ishmael," the opening statement of Herman Melville's epic novel *Moby Dick* is one of the most well known and famous lines in the history of English literature, and 153 years later, "I think that someone is trying to kill me," stands to be one of the most famous opening lines in the history of the genre of metal music. But what does one have to do with the other?

Two Words: Mastodon's *Leviathan*.
Over one year after their *Moby Dick* tribute album, *Leviathan*, hit shelves across America, Mastodon is just now hitting its stride in terms of popularity. The increase can be correlated to the band's numerous nation and world-wide tours with the likes of genre juggernauts Slayer, Slipknot, Killswitch Engage, and most notably Ozzy Osbourne, Iron Maiden, and Rob Zombie as part of Ozzfest's infamous second-stage line up. But the band has gained critical acclaim as

well with *Leviathan* being named "album of the year" of 2004 by such music magazines as *Revolver*, *Kerrang!*, and *Terrorizer*. This is a feat which is, to say the least, astounding, if not unparalleled during the last decade of heavy metal releases. In addition to being named album of the year in several magazines, the band has been declared "awe-inspiring" by *Entertainment Weekly* and *The Washington Post* proclaimed that they "... could be considered the second coming of Metallica and Rush combined..."

See PICK OF THE WEEK: Page 11



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On The Beat in New York City

Tips for Successful Urban Living

Bob Isenburg's tips for successful New York City urban living: first, stay away from the fi-fi dining spots. While you may be eating in The Big Apple, apparently the red delicious goes for a pretty penny on Wall Street.

Instead, stay at home and make your menu the local grocery store.

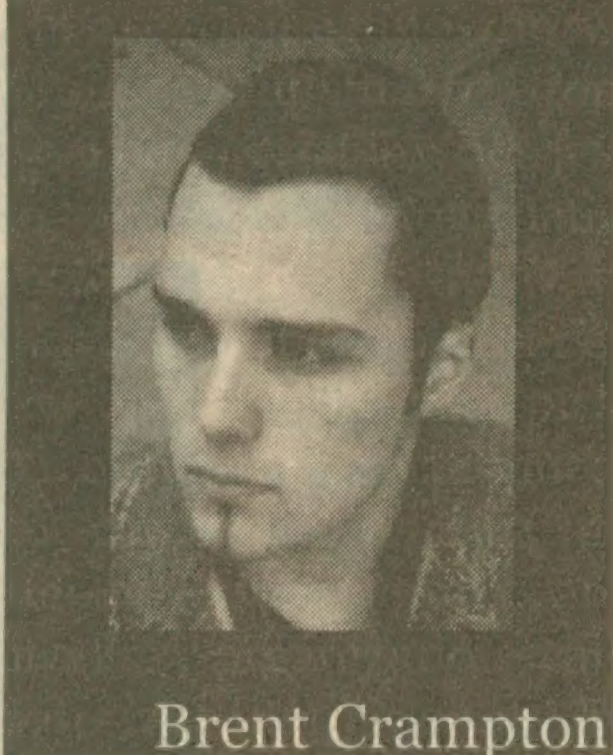
Second, it's better to go underground to the tube rather than hail the yellow box with wheels. Taking a cab is like being a 40-year-old man with bad cholesterol, feeling your blood pressure rise right along with the price on the meter. And finally, if you're paying twenty dollars at the door to get into a club, you're fully justified in bringing your two-dollar flask. These are all lessons that I have acquired after my recent weekend visit to NYC.

Apparently though, I didn't implement them very well, considering that my checking account is so low, I saw it swirling around a cup of change on the corner of 11th and Howard. Last time I was in New York, I was around nine or 10 years old, so you could say I saw more than just tall

buildings and pizzerias this time around. No Empire State Building and Statue of Liberty sight-seeing. It was more of a vibe-feeling, soaking in the sounds of the city, keeping up with the pace of constant, 24-hour motion—whether it be on the gum-engulfed sidewalks or the freshly waxed dance floors.

If anything, the journey half-way across America was about me being me.

On The Beat



Brent Crampton

The Midwest can often be culturally homogenized, and seeing people of all types, colors and affiliations was a reminder to go for individuality. Now how does this pertain to Omaha? Well, we barely have a public transportation system, Sonic Burger has the "five burgers for five bucks" deal, and no club in Omaha will be charging \$20 to get in (unless you're 1507, who evidently

doesn't think they're tucked in between a wig store and the run-down Brown Baggers in downtown Omaha).

On with the Music

DJ Chrystalline from New Mexico is returning to Club Nico (11201 Davenport Street) on Thursday, Sept. 29. She jumps, she screams, and she can out-dance those on the dance floor, even though she's the one DJing. With her signature fun and funky style of house music, she'll be rocking it right along with her top recruit—Billa.

Having held a two-year residency in Prague at Radost, Billa has been laying down house beats for over a decade. A transplant to New Mexico, his mixing is so timed and vibed that when I saw him perform at the Martini Grill in Albuquerque, I thought he programmed his set. After careful observation, I discovered that the boy just got the skills. And if you miss the Omaha appearance, you can check out Chrystalline and Billa at Bricktop (1427 O Street) in Lincoln on Friday, the 30. By my estimates, Bricktop is the cornerstone for clubbing to electronic music in Nebraska.



courtesy image

Billa comes to Nico with DJ Chrystalline on Sept. 29.

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Release Dates and Events: Sept. 20 – Oct. 3

ANDREW CUMBEE
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

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Thursday-Saturday,
Sept. 29-Oct. 1
River City Roundup:
Lone Star,
Montgomery Gentry,
and Leeann Rimes @
Qwest Center Omaha,
9:30 p.m., \$22-45

Friday, Sept. 23
Tilly and the Wall with
Neva Dinova, Orenda
Fink, and David
Dondero @
Knickerbockers, 9
p.m., \$8

Monday, Sept. 26
Pretty Girls Make
Graves with
Ladyfinger and
Latitude, Longitude
@ Sokol Underground,

9 p.m., \$8

DVD:

Tuesday, Sept. 20
The Longest Yard
Mallrats (10th
Anniversary Extended
Edition)
Inside Deep Throat

Tuesday, Sept. 27
"Family Guy" presents
Stewie Griffin:
The Untold Story
Robots

In Theaters:

Friday, Sept. 23
Flightplan
The Corpse Bride

Friday, Sept. 30
The Greatest Game Ever
Played
Serenity

A History of Violence
Into the Blue

Music Albums:

Tuesday, Sept. 20
Disturbed: "Ten
Thousand Fists"
Echo & the Bunnymen:
"Siberia"
Ryan Cabrera: "You
Stand Watching"

Tuesday, Sept. 27
The Bloodhound Gang:
"Hefty Fine"

Gaming:

Tuesday, Sept. 20
We Love Katamari
- PS2
Marvel Nemesis: Rise
of the Imperfects
- PS2, XB, GC
Hitman: Blood Money
- PS2, XB, PC

Lord of War: more like "Bored of War"

ANDREW CUMBEE
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Everyone hates it when a movie is falsely advertised. We saw the entire world riot against M. Night Shyamalan's *The Village* after it turned out to be something completely unlike the film in the movie's trailers and TV spots. We use the advertisements to determine whether something is worth our \$5 to \$10 movie tickets.

Well, *Lord of War* is going to have a huge problem. The way the previews ran I thought I was going to see an action movie. I mean...come on, at least a "cop chases bad-guy/anti-hero" kind of thing. That's not it at all. Simply put: *Lord of War* is a rip-off of *Blow*, done with guns.

The story is basic. It's about the rise and fall and rise and fall of a gunrunner named Yuri Orlov (Nicolas Cage). Umm...that's about it. He trades guns, he avoids cops, he tries to live a normal life between 1982 and 2000. There you go, incredibly predictable.

It's obvious to see why this movie got made. We live in a world where war is a constant and we live in a world where we don't fully trust our governments (this has nothing to do with Republicans or Democrats).

I know that it seems like I'm attacking this movie, and I want you to know that that isn't the case. I actually liked some things about it. But the writing is just so bad that attacks are unavoidable.

The whole movie is about the evils of gunrunning. You can pick that up from my basic plot summary above.

Then at the end of the thing they tried to

throw in this new story direction about how it's necessary to have gunrunners and evil guys in the world. But, then again, not even three minutes after this new line of thinking is introduced the words "This story is based on actual events" appear on the screen.

What?! What are you trying to tell me? That the US government approves of underground gunrunners and actually protects them if necessary? Good one, movie. Good one.

Obviously, this is not based on a true story. I could even forgive the above writing disaster if the main character was one that I connected with and liked. But...they wouldn't let me forgive it. I couldn't buy Yuri as a real person. This is especially because of the casting of Nicolas Cage, who is playing a 20-year-old guy from the Ukraine. I couldn't buy the back-story or upbringing of Yuri and I couldn't buy what happened during the movie. Part of this is because the character can't decide whether he's an evil anti-hero that sells guns or a guy that doesn't want to kill people, but still sells guns anyway.

Also...why is Ethan Hawke in this? He's advertised all over the place in the preview. I'm not exaggerating when I say that he has about five lines of dialogue in the whole thing. And again, Nicolas Cage is totally miscast as the non-aging lead character.

Somehow, though, even after all of this complaining, I still didn't hate *Lord of War*. I don't know what it is about it, but I had a good waste of two hours. I can't really recommend it, but it's not horrible. If you're interested, wait for it to hit HBO.

Grade: C-

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Beale's hat trick leads Mavs

NATHAN LEETE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

There's no place like home, especially for the UNO soccer team.

The Mavericks now stand at 4-1-0 on the season and are 1-0 in North Central Conference after defeating Augustana 6-0 Friday at Ak-Sar-Ben field, in UNO's first home game.

Brandie Beale's third career hat trick gave her a career-high eight points for the game. UNO came out firing on all cylinders as Beth McGill posted her third goal of the year only 44 seconds into the game, off of passes from Beale and Amanda Richardson.

"It's always kind of good to get the first goal," said UNO Head Coach Don Klosterman. "That's an unusual case that doesn't happen very often when you come out in the first 45 seconds and score a goal. It's obviously a really good way to start a game. It felt good," Klosterman said.

At the 15:38 mark, Beale scored her first goal of the game from 15 yards out with a defender covering her. Beale scored on a penalty kick 10 minutes later and the Mavs took a 3-0 lead into halftime.

Beale scored her third goal of the game, and sixth of the year, 10 minutes into the second half on a pass from Amanda Iwansky. Sophomore Ali Portell scored her first goal of the year two minutes and 22 seconds later off of passes from Beale and Danielle McCawley. Portell added one more goal for the Mavs at the 77:00 minute mark to capture the 6-0 win.

UNO had 14-24 shots on goal while the defense didn't allow a single shot by Augustana. The six goals were the most



photo by Michelle Bishop

MaryClaire Murnan prepares to kick the ball during Friday's game against Augustana.

the Mavs have scored in nine games.

"It's good that they had no shots on goal the whole game," Klosterman said. "That's for us a big deal. If you look at it from the standpoint we scored more goals and didn't allow them to score anything. It's a very positive game for us."

Earlier in the season, the Mavericks have had some trouble scoring goals on opponents.

"From where we were at when we started out or even where we were at two weeks ago, we were much more aggressive today on the defensive end, and on the attacking end we had more energy and were talking more," Klosterman said. "I think it helps us, playing at home in front of their family and friends. This can't be our best game because we'll have stiffer competition down the road."

The Mavericks will be in action again on Sept. 25 when they host Minnesota-Duluth.

Mav Notes

COMPILED BY NATHAN LEETE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Northwestern-365
Morningside-380

Mavs win Wayne State Invitational

The UNO golf team squeaked by Winona State 329-330 Friday to win the Wayne State College Women's Fall Golf Classic. The event was played at the Wayne Country Club in Wayne, Neb.

Carly Froehlich won the individual title after shooting an 80 to win a scorecard playoff against teammate Lynn Mulligan.

Amber Dodge finished with an 84, and Sara Wolfe shot an 85.

The golfers continue action Saturday and Sunday at the 54-hole Concordia-St. Paul Golden Bear Invitational in Okoboji, Iowa.

Top 5 Team Scores

UNO-329

Winona State-330

Dana College-361

Cross Country finishes fourth at Woody Greeno Invitational

The UNO Cross Country team had a strong fourth place finish this weekend at the Woody Greeno Invitational in Lincoln's Pioneer Park. There were 31 teams participating in the meet. The team and individual titles both went home with Nebraska-Lincoln.

Senior Kellie Ryan led the Mavericks with a 20th place finish and a time of 23 minutes and two seconds. Tahnee Tuengue was right behind her with a time of 23:08 for a 25th place finish. Sarah Zeisler placed 34th with a time of 23:30, Kellie Mertes took home 46th (23:48), Kaylen Harris finished 52nd (23:56) and Allison Gorman matched her time for 53rd.

The team's next meet is Oct. 1 at the Wayne State invitational.

Can UNO maintain its choke-hold on the North Central Conference?

There's nothing like a little competition between North Central Conference opponents to stir up the last Saturday of September.

Six out of the seven NCC teams will be looking for their first conference victory of the season this weekend. UNO plays at South Dakota, Augustana at North Dakota and St. Cloud State at Minnesota State-Mankato.

How about the unbeaten?

North Dakota, South Dakota, St. Cloud State and UNO all are 4-0 on the season, which makes conference openers even more significant. Two teams will play each other this weekend, leaving one with its first loss of the year after Sept. 24. UNO, the defending NCC champs and one of the preseason favorites to win the conference, has had a week off to prepare for South Dakota,

You Heard It Here



Chris Harrington

while the Coyotes are coming off an overtime-win over the Colorado Mines. Jeff Jamrog and his Minnesota State-Mankato team would love to give St. Cloud State its first loss of the season, but the Mavericks have to get over last week's 35-21 upset loss at Concordia-St. Paul. Dan Lennon's North Dakota team, the other preseason favorite to win the NCC, will be looking to prove itself, because the Fighting Sioux went 4-2 in conference play in 2004.

How about those national rankings?

The NCC has four teams ranked in the top 25 in Division II polls. North Dakota is ranked the highest at No. 4. The Coyotes have taken down Central Washington and Winona State on the road and West Chester and Western Washington at home. During those four games, the Coyotes have averaged 45.7 points per game, and the defense has held opponents to just 10 points per game. Winning all the conference games will be a must for No. 5 UNO.

Coach Pat Behrms' team has already defeated three of its four non-conference opponents, which is a plus for them, since the Mavericks went 3-2 in non-conference play last season.

Ed Meierkort has No. 16 South Dakota's offense humming on all cylinders. The Coyotes averaged 60 points per game for the last four games, including a 77-0 shutout in the season opener at Minnesota-Crookston. No. 13 St. Cloud State also won two home and road games, but the team's defense has been the most impressive, holding opponents to 8.5 points per game so far this season.

A glimpse at each team's weaknesses

Although Augustana might be 3-1 on the season, the Vikings were winless in

See YOU HEAR IT HEAR: Page 11



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Feelings are hard to understand

I'd like to think that I belong to a special breed of people that embrace every aspect of life, even down to the slightest details. But some people just call me a drama queen. Or king, I suppose, if we're being gender-specific.

But the social slang definition of a drama queen is something like a gossip person, or someone who makes their life a lot more complex and difficult than it needs to be.

My problem is different. I have a real hard time turning my feelings down. Ever since I was a child, the world—and everything in it—seemed to mean a lot more to me than my peers.

The subtleties around us—the things people say, the things they do, how people interact with each other—has always been something I've never taken lightly. That's not to say that I blow up in rage if someone makes a joke about my outfit or something. More specifically, I'm talking about emotion and the relationships that we all share.

I have a really hard time believing that I'm singularly unique in this way. When we're younger—perhaps high school age—we all think to some extent that we are different from everyone else. But when we get older, we start to realize how similar our minds really are with others.

But to this day, I still get chided for my passion towards the intricacies in life, which makes me wonder if maybe I am that different from the majority of people. Girlfriends have thrown up their hands in surrender when having conversations with me about the meaning of something they've

Manic Digression



Josh Bashara

said, or the way they've acted. Friends of mine have rolled their eyes in frustration when I'm off on a tangent about the meaning behind something that's happened to me or someone we know.

Sometimes I just think I feel too much. I latch on to the little things that most people seem to brush off, and I dissect and examine them to the tiniest detail. Once again, though, I'm not talking about what you might be assuming

by now. For example, if a girl tells me I'm not her type, I don't sit there for hours and ponder why she said it or what exactly she meant by it.

What I'm talking about is something deeper than that. It's trying to understand why people don't seem to view life the same way I do, which is just one big collection of experiences, and the pursuit thereof.

I can't just sit back and be content letting life whiz by as it appears that so many others do.

We all know that there is something deeper beneath the surface; that it's not all just about the 9-to-5 grind and then bar-hopping time. And this, I guess, is what I find myself obsessed with from time to time. I can't just sit back and be content letting life whiz by as it appears that so many others do. Everything that happens to me—all the things in life that I experience—mean something to me. The friendships, the lovers, my family.

And so I'll continue to get razzed every once in a while that I think too much. But is that a bad thing? Can thinking too much ever be a bad thing? I suppose it can, when you are too infatuated with examining the meaning of life rather than living it. To quote John Lennon, "Life is what happens when you're busy making other plans."

Memo to Senate Republicans: Don't Fight Filibuster

By now, barring any unforeseen circumstances, Judge John Roberts should be on his way to the Senate for the full Confirmation vote. And, unfortunate as it is, there's something lurking in the shadows: the ever-hated filibuster.

For those of you who need to be reminded what this is, it is forced debate in which 60 votes are needed to move on. (It became notorious during the judicial battle that happened earlier this year.)

Now, why is this proverbial Sword of Damocles hanging over the Senate? I'll tell you why. Back during the judicial battle, there was talk of the Constitutional/Nuclear option flying about, when 14 Senators from both parties forged a deal which barred the use of the filibuster except only in "exceptional circumstances." And Democrat senators have said that such a Supreme Court nominee would be "exceptional circumstances."

Now, with this ugly thing raring its head again, Senate Republicans may try to use the Constitutional/Nuclear option this time to end it once and for all, risking shutting down the Senate in the process. But I have a suggestion: Don't use the option, wait, and let public opinion sway the votes you need to shut the filibuster down.

Personally, I would want to treat the Constitutional/Nuclear option like it was some kind of big super-weapon. Really, I'd take some kind of button into the Senate chamber, plop it onto the lectern, look right at the Dems, and issue the ultimatum. "See this button? If you so much as hint that you're going to use the filibuster, I push this button, kill your precious filibuster, and shut down

As Far As I'm Concerned



Matthew Lytle

the Senate in the process. You started this; we're going to end it. The question you're going to answer is: In what condition will the Senate be in when we end it?" But, unfortunately, there is a better option in waiting, and here's why.

If I remember correctly, all we ever heard was this filibuster during the whole judicial duel. The media kept harping on the stalling. Well, let's turn it into our favor.

Let's let the media harp on the stall tactics again, especially on the one Senator who started this Filibuster. (Interesting how it takes 60 people to stop what it takes one person to start?) Once the media paints a bad painting of the Filibuster, a lot of the swing Democrats will start to move away from their fellow senators, right to the Republican side. All we'd need are five votes, and with enough public pressure, the Filibuster is as good as toast.

But what if nobody filibusters Roberts? Though it's possible, it's really unlikely that this'll happen. Senate Minority Leader Reid can try to keep his troops from starting the filibuster, but keeping 44 other Senators in line is next to impossible. Like I said, it takes one person to start a filibuster (If Reid does try to keep his forces in line, then he should have his forces side with the Republicans to overwhelmingly stop it.)

And whether or not a filibuster is used, I can safely say that John Roberts will be confirmed. But the big problem, in my opinion, will arise when President Bush picks his replacement for retiring justice Sandra Day O'Connor. If they can't use it here, what's going to stop them from using it during Round 2...

Hating the bright side of things

The other day as I was pulling into a parking spot at a local grocery store. There would normally be nothing exciting about this, but this time in the spot next to mine was a seriously hot guy in a Jeep. That is 45 percent of my annual internet-posted Christmas list. (I've been holding out for a pony since I was eight.)

As I was eyeballing this beautiful specimen I

noticed that he had a toddler's car seat in the backseat of his Jeep. I was crushed and the oozing stopped immediately because I'm a hypocrite and will not even interface with a man with children. (You see, where there is baby there is baby mama. Where there is baby mama, there is baby mama drama.)

My child pipes up from the back seat and says with a wisdom only bestowed upon 10 year-olds "Maybe he has a friend who is a midget. You gotta look on the bright side."

No, it wasn't the comment about the little people, but it was the simple cliché that followed, "You gotta look on the bright side," that changed the entire course of my day.

The kid had a good point. She is a genius, after all. (They say that's hereditary.)

Bitter with Age



Angi Sada

But it is so hard to do so sometimes. Trust me. I'm the girl on campus with her own personal rain cloud. I have a million reasons to want to fling myself into the fast-moving traffic of Dodge Street.

It begs the question. "What is it about humans that makes us, for the most part, so damn resilient?" I can't even guess. Well, I've tried to guess and I'm sure that the smell of dry-erase

markers is not what gives me my super-human strength.

But this kid had the answer all along. We are instinctively drawn to finding the good in things, people, and places. You know, all of the nouns.

We create devices and excuses to avoid seeing the good things. And still we find ourselves making lemonade out of lemons: never knowing what we're going to get out of that box of chocolates, but eating away with complete disregard.

I guess that's the trade-off. In order to really appreciate the bright side, we need to actively search for it.

As for me, I'll stop trolling the grocery store parking lots. At least while the kid is in the back seat.

Senate needs to be more pro-active

Staff Editorial

At a recent Board of Regents meeting, several students and one non-student organization stood behind student Matt Schaefer as he bravely spoke out against Regent C. David Hergert.

Let us re-phrase that. Several UNL students stood behind UNL student Matt Schaefer as he stood in front of Hergert and called him a liar and cheater.

"We feel you are a stain on our democracy," he said. And on our state, and on our university, he continued.

We agree.

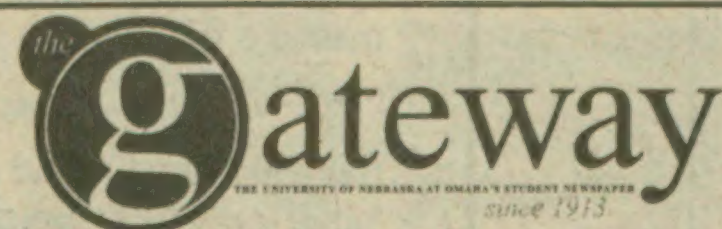
But we are not the elected voice of our students and our university.

Last Thursday, the Student Senate shied away from creating/passing a resolution that would take a stand on

the Hergert issue, even though a week before, UNL had unanimously voted for a resolution calling for Hergert's resignation.

Why be shy? While it is true that any resolution regarding Hergert would have no binding authority, it is also true that a resolution of this nature would be the much-needed voice created by the leaders that represent one of the campuses in the university system that he watches over.

We challenge you to have an opinion, for the best or the worst of Hergert. If you can pass letters of commendation, then you can pass letters of condemnation. If you can support a faculty member or recognize a student, you can do the same for a member of the Board of Regents.



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Letters must be signed using the writer's first and last names. Letters must include the writer's address and phone number for verification purposes only. Letters to the editor exceeding two typed pages will not be considered for publication.

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From **PICK OF THE WEEK:** Page 7

But does the band deserve such praise? Are they really the future of metal in America? Is Mastodon really worth all the hype? To put it simply: yes, yes they are. When listening to this album, it is the opening track, "Blood and Thunder" which hooks you immediately and stays with you through the entire listen. The opening guitar and drum solos, in addition to the blaring vocals from the band's bassist and vocalist Troy Sanders all come together to form one of the most addictive and identifiable openings to an album in recent history. The record only gets better from there. It is with the album's third track, "Seabeast," that Mastodon seems to pull away and creates a sound which is almost a grunge-style, and while it does not seem a productive mix, it is one of the best produced and best sounding tracks on the album.

It is from there that you get the tracks "Iron Tusk" and "Megalodon." "Iron Tusk" was the band's first single and many consider to be the album's most memorable track. It was "Megalodon" however, that left this reviewer breathless with an awe-inspiring and nearly uninterrupted 60-second tango of advanced guitar technique and pulse-pounding drums. Without a doubt, it

From **LIT FEST:** Page 6

Another pointed out it all depends upon the ethics of the individual writer. Another gave a warning to readers: "Beware, writings are not necessarily the truth; they are only one person's story."

Debates went round-and-round about the topic of truth and perceptions in reading and writing, until a student in the audience pointed

is one of the tracks that defines the album. Lastly and most noted in other reviews is the album's opus, the 13 minute and 39 second "HeartsAlive," a track that is about, of all things, drowning. Many point to "Hearts Alive" as the track that is the most complex, and takes the most from the book the band is modeling their record after. The song, while intimidating in its length, proves to be one of the most restrained and almost soothing songs on the release.

Overall, the album was and still remains to be one of the best records of 2004, and one would be hard pressed to argue that *Leviathan* is one of the most accomplished, daring, complex, and addictive metal albums put out in the last decade. It may be premature, but it seems that Mastodon has achieved their defining work. Just like Metallica had *Master of Puppets*, Black Sabbath had their self-titled release, and like Slayer had *Reign in Blood*, now Mastodon, without hesitation, can join that list with their own *Leviathan*.

Mastodon

Leviathan

Relapse

Release: Available Now

Key Tracks: "Blood and Thunder,"

"Seabeast," "Iron Tusk," "Megalodon,"

"Hearts Alive."

out the keen "mental masturbation" that was occurring there, and reminded the panel of experts about the reason of writing and reading in the first place: the pure enjoyment of the experience.

Though, according to a panelist, newspapers "always get it wrong," so who am I to say?

From **YOU HEARD IT HERE:** Page 9

conference play in 2004 and in six NCC losses; four of them were by at least 23 points. The Vikings defense will have to step up to the plate if the team wants to have a shot at a winning season. Minnesota Duluth is 3-1 on the season, improving from a 2-2 start in 2004, but the Bulldogs ranked last in the NCC in total offense and defense last season. Road games might be an issue in 2005 for Minnesota State-Mankato. The Minnesota Mavericks have already lost two straight games on the road this season and have four more away games scheduled as conference play begins, including a trip to South Dakota and UNO. North Dakota had the No. 1 defense in the NCC in 2004, and opposing teams are still struggling to score on the Fighting Sioux this season. Now that North Dakota's offense is on point, this team will be tough to beat, especially at home with a 20-game winning streak and will most likely be undefeated until the last two games of the season, with a home game against UNO and a road match at South Dakota.

St. Cloud State led the NCC in total offense last season and might be the sleeper team for 2005. The Huskies went 4-2 in conference play in 2004, with losses to North and South Dakota, but did win one of two games against the Fighting Sioux. St. Cloud State will have South Dakota at home this season and will get a chance at breaking the tie with North Dakota.

South Dakota had a three-way tie with two other conference foes with a 4-2 record last season. The Coyotes' offense will be tough to stop once it gets into a rhythm, but the defense will be the question when it comes down to winning the close games.

UNO and North Dakota handed the Coyotes its only two losses in 2004, but both have to travel to the Dakota Dome this year and a shot at redemption will be on Meierkort's mind.

Last but not least, UNO looks good on offense after the team's first three games. Injuries will be the question as conference play opens up.

UNO faces its biggest test this weekend, when the team travels to South Dakota to take on the Coyotes' high-octane offense. If the Mavericks' defense continues to struggle, Saturday's game will get really ugly really quick.

Final Analysis

UNO and North Dakota has shared or been crowned NCC champs the past 12 years. Since Northern Colorado left the conference after the 2003 season, the NCC has the Mavericks and Fighting Sioux for the taking, and both teams were favored to win the conference at the start of the season.

Don't expect South Dakota and St. Cloud State to just give it away easily. The Huskies want to get its hands back on the NCC after sharing the title in 2003 and the Coyotes will be hungry for it, since they haven't won the title since 1978.

Don't expect a three-way tie for second place in the NCC this season. Winning the title will come down to the last week of October and the beginning week of November. Each NCC team has enough talent to go the whole way, but with the competition in this league, losses and few upsets are bound to happen this season. The team who plays the best defense and wins the key road games will win the NCC.

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